Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A depthometer for measuring a length of an elongate line, said depthometer comprising:

a main body component;

a main wheel connected to said main body component;

a registering mechanism in communication with said main wheel;

a lower body component; and

a handle for displacing said main body component from said lower body component, comprising an inner handle connected to said main body component and an outer handle connected to said lower body component; and

means for automatically moving said main body component towards said lower body component to engage a line.

2. (Original) The depthometer of claim 1 wherein said means for automatically moving said main body component towards said lower body component to engage a line comprises at least one device selected from the group consisting of springs, hydraulic devices, and air-driven devices.

3. (Original) The depthometer of claim 1 further comprising a line guide connected to said lower body component.

4. (Original) The depthometer of claim 3 wherein said line guide comprises a wheel.

5. (Cancelled) ~~The depthometer of claim 1 further comprising a handle~~ for displacing said main body component from said lower body component.

6. (Cancelled) ~~The depthometer of claim 5 wherein said handle comprises:~~

an inner handle; and

~~an outer handle.~~

7. (Cancelled) ~~The~~ depthometer of ~~claim 6 wherein said inner handle is connected to~~ said main body component.

8. (Cancelled) The depthometer of ~~claim 6 wherein said outer handle is connected to~~ said lower body component.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring a length of an elongate line, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a depthometer having a registering mechanism;

displacing a first body component from a second body component by squeezing a first handle toward a second handle;

positioning a line adjacent a wheel; and

automatically moving the first body component towards the second body component to engage the line.

10. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 9 wherein the step of displacing a first body~~ component from a second body component comprises pulling a first body component away from ~~a second body component.~~

11. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 9 wherein the step of displacing~~ a ~~first body~~ component from a second body component comprises squeezing a first handle towards a second ~~handle~~

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of displacing a first body component from a second body component comprises compressing a spring.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of positioning a line adjacent a wheel comprises positioning a line between a wheel mounted upon the first body component and a line guide mounted upon the second body component.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of automatically moving the first body component towards the second body component to engage the line comprises forcing the first body component towards the second body component with a spring-like force to engage the line.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of forcing the first body component towards the second body component with a spring-like force to engage the line comprises allowing a compressed spring to expand.

16. (Currently Amended) A depthometer for measuring a length of an elongate line, said depthometer comprising:

a wheel for contacting an elongate line;

means for creating a spring-like force against the line to maintain frictional contact between the line and said wheel; ~~and~~

means for registering a length.

an inner handle; and

an outer handle, said inner and outer handles oriented upon the depthometer to create a force in opposition to said spring-like force when one of said handles is displaced toward the other.

17. (Original) The depthometer of claim 16 wherein said means for creating a spring-like force comprises a spring.

18. (Original) The depthometer of claim 16 further comprising means for mounting said wheel.

19. (Original) The depthometer of claim 18 wherein said means for mounting said wheel comprises a main body component.

20. (Original) The depthometer of claim 19 further comprising a line guide.

21. (Original) The depthometer of claim 20 further comprising a lower body component, said line guide mounted upon said lower body component.

22. (Original) The depthometer of claim 21 wherein said means for creating a spring-like force is positioned on the depthometer to move said main body component towards said lower body component.

23. (Cancelled) The depthometer of claim 21 further comprising means for grasping ~~the depthometer~~.

24. (Cancelled) ~~The depthometer of claim 23 wherein said means for grasping the~~ depthometer comprises at least one handle.

25. (Cancelled) ~~The depthometer of claim 24 wherein said at least one handle comprises:~~

~~an outer handle; and~~

an inner handle.

26. (Currently Amended) The depthometer of claim 19 25 wherein said outer handle slidably engages said main body component.

27. (Currently Amended) The depthometer of claim 21 25 wherein said outer handle connects to said lower body component.

28. (Currently Amended) The depthometer of claim 19 ~~25~~ wherein said inner handle connects to said main body component.

29. (Currently Amended) The depthometer of claim 21 25 wherein said outer handle comprises:

at least one shaft connected to said lower body component; and

a transverse portion connected to said at least one shaft.

30. (Original) The depthometer of claim 29 wherein said means for creating a spring-like force comprises a spring inserted over said shaft of said outer handle.